Now, there is a uniform rate of duty of 75% on CPO for all the vanaspati units, whether sick or otherwise.

Fall in coconut production due to mites

645. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that coconut production has fallen due to prevalence of mite disease in Southern States of the country;

(b) if so, what is total production of coconut at present; and

(c) the State-wise deatails of production of coconut both prior to mite disease and after mite disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per the latest available statistics for the year 1999-2000, the total production of coconuts in four Southern States of Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, has increased to 11,111 million nuts from 10,777 million nuts in 1998-99. The total estimated production of coconuts in the country during 1999-2000 is 12,251.6 million nuts.

(c) The incidence of eriophyid mite of coconuts was first noticed in 1998. The State-wise production of coconut for the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 is given below:—

(million nuts)

	States	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	815.0	698.1	1051.8
2.	Assam	126.9	149.9	150.1
3.	Goa	120.9	121.0	121.6
4.	Karnataka	1550.4	1611.5	1670.3
5.	Kerala	5911.0	5132.0	5167.0
6.	Maharashtra	226.8	220.9	226.7
7.	Orissa	413.4	795.1	163.3
8.	Tamil Nadu	3096.7	3335.3	3222.0
9.	Tripura	6.1	7.5	7.5
10.	West Bengal	306.2	318.2	324.3

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Andaman and Nicoabar Islands	86.6	87.5	87.5
12.	Lakshadweep	27.7	28.0	28.3
13.	Pondicherry	29.6	30.9	31.2
	All India	12717.3	12535.9	12251.6

Mite disease of coconut in Karnataka

646.SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any scientific efforts to check/contain the spread of mite disease through tapping of Neera from the coconut trees;

(b) whether Government are aware that the coconut farmers are demanding and making agitations in Karnataka seeking permission to tap the coconut trees; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has approached the Central Government for scientific assistance in this regard; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No Scientific effort to check/contain the spread of eriophyid mite through tapping of Neera from coconut trees have been made by CPCRI because it is not a recommended practice of controlling the mite.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The request for research for control of coconut mite was raised in various fora by the representatives of the Government of Karnataka. Therefore, under NATP a research scheme on "Development of Integrated Pest Management Package for Eriophyid mite (Aceria geurreronis Keifer) of coconut in Southern States" at a total cost of Rs. 141.95 lakhs for 3 years is operational at 5 research centres. Out of the five, two centres are in Karnataka *viz*. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore and Project Directorate on Biological Control, Bangalore.

Strengthening marketing facilities of Agricultural Product

†647. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the funds required for strengthening the marketing facilities of agricultural products and for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.